

GLASGOW CATHEDRAL FESTIVAL

28 September – 1 October 2023

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- Glasgow Cathedral Festival uses the creative potential of Glasgow's oldest building to inspire audiences with powerful artistic experiences
- Now in its seventh season, GCF has so far welcomed over 13,500 visitors to 82 events
- Our lineup for GCF2023 includes:
 - classic **silent film**: Dovzhenko's *Earth* with a new score from the Kalinin and Smirnova Duo, and Murnau's *Sunrise* with live organ accompaniment from Thierry Escaich
 - Simeon ten Holt's *Canto Ostinato* performed by 12 pianists against a projection-mapped video backdrop from Trenchone Industries
 - chamber music masterpieces from the Sacconi Quartet and recitals from Matthew James Higham (flute) and Richard Gowers (organ) as part of our **lunchtime series**
 - *Twilight in the Crypt* with soprano Stephanie Lamprea, featuring cutting-edge works for voice and electronics
 - an exclusive glimpse behind the scenes at our free stonemasonry **tour**
- GCF aims to welcome and connect meaningfully with a wide variety of audiences, especially those who don't regularly engage with classical music

Glasgow Cathedral Festival takes place from **28 September – 1 October 2023**, with a selection of **daytime, evening and late-night events**. Our programme for this year includes everything from **classic silent film** to **chamber music** from **Scottish and international artists** and immersive **twilight performances**—offering audiences the chance to experience something outstanding in an incredibly memorable setting.

Filling the cathedral with sound and light, GCF's headline event for 2023 is a performance of Simeon ten Holt's seminal work of Dutch minimalism, *Canto Ostinato* (1974). This will be played on four pianos by 12 pianists from the **Piano Association of St Andrews** over three hours, against a striking video backdrop from **Trenchone Industries**, projected directly onto the gothic cathedral interior. The audience will be invited to move around and get a drink or sit back and relax—creating their own experience of this unique spectacle.

The dramatic surroundings of the cathedral quire provide a striking backdrop for two legendary **silent films** (both in *The Guardian's* all-time top ten) with live musical accompaniment. Dovzhenko's searingly beautiful hymn to nature *Earth* (1930) celebrates Ukrainian spirit, with a new jazz-based score composed and performed by Ukrainian duo **Misha Kalinin** (guitar) and **Roksana Smirnova** (piano) whilst Murnau's darkly passionate romance-drama *Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans* (1927) is underpinned by a fiery organ soundtrack performed by **Thierry Escaich** (Professor of Improvisation, Paris Conservatoire).

GCF's series of **hour-long lunchtime recitals** offers something for everyone to enjoy. The festival launches with a performance from young flautist **Matthew James Higham** with pianist **Hye Soo Kang**, featuring dazzling and virtuosic works by Mácha, Berio, J.S. Bach and Martinů. The following day the

world-renowned **Sacconi Quartet** and pianist **Emma Abbate** perform chamber music masterworks by Shostakovich and Schubert, and on Sunday **Richard Gowers** (King's College, Cambridge and St George's, Hanover Square) continues our popular organ concert series with a recital of Liszt's monumental *Ad nos, ad salutarem undam* alongside gems by Mozart and Roger-Ducasse.

Twilight in the Crypt has become a key fixture of the festival, with sell-out performances every season. This year, Columbian-American soprano **Stephanie Lamprea** is joined in the subterranean lower church by sound artist **Alistair MacDonald** for a performance integrating the human voice with avant-garde electronics. Featuring cutting-edge works by some of Scotland's most exciting voices in contemporary music, their programme includes music by Katrin Klose alongside the world premieres by Robert Laidlow, Lisa Robertson and Alistair MacDonald.

GCF maintains its commitment to welcoming all regardless of income or background to our beautiful, historic building by offering **free tours**. This year, the cathedral's master **stonemason** will give an exclusive talk explaining the ancient techniques used over the centuries in his fascinating craft, accompanied by a tour of the yard. In addition to this free event, GCF is delighted to be able to open its doors to all with **tiered ticket prices, concessions** for students and unemployed people and **free tickets for the underprivileged in our local area**.

Andrew Forbes, Artistic Director said:

For 2023 we've curated some truly unique experiences that audiences can't get anywhere else: our highlight event showcases Simeon ten Holt's masterpiece Canto Ostinato—a mesmerising longform work that feels more of a life event than a concert. We're presenting it with 12 pianists over the course of three hours, against a custom-made video backdrop projected directly onto our gothic cathedral interior. Vibrant lunchtime concerts feature music for flute, organ, piano and string quartet, and our sell-out Twilight in the Crypt series continues deep below the cathedral, with a mystical late-night exploration of new music for voice and electronics. Completing our season are two silent films with live soundtracks – an ever-popular feature of GCF – with the powerful Ukrainian spirit of Dovzhenko's Earth, and Murnau's enduring romantic drama Sunrise. These are brought to life with incredible musical performances by the jazz-inflected Kalinin Smirnova Duo from Ukraine, and world-renowned French organist Thierry Escaich.

Sarah Lockhart, Creative Learning Officer at Creative Scotland said:

Glasgow Cathedral Festival is inspiring new audiences with their unique mix of classical music and films with live musical soundtracks, all to the backdrop of a beautiful, Gothic landmark of Glasgow. Supported by The National Lottery through Creative Scotland for the first time, they're extending their programme of events and ensuring accessibility to reach more people, especially those who haven't had previously the opportunity to engage with classical music. It's the perfect season for it and we'd highly encourage anyone in and around Glasgow to enjoy what the festival has to offer.

ENDS

GLASGOW CATHEDRAL FESTIVAL 2023

Thursday 28th September

Event 1 **Matthew Higham & Hye Soo Kang** | 1pm

Event 2 **Kalinin & Smirnova Duo / Earth** | 7pm

Event 3 **Stephanie Lamprea** | 9pm

Friday 29th September

Event 4 **Sacconi Quartet & Emma Abbate** | 1pm

Event 5 **Thierry Escaich / Sunrise** | 7pm

Saturday 30th September

Event 6 **Canto Ostinato** | 7pm

Sunday 1st October

Event 7 **Richard Gowers** | 1pm

Event 8 **Stonemasonry Tour** | 2.30pm

Notes to Editors

Glasgow Cathedral Festival is operated by the **Society of Friends of Glasgow Cathedral**. The Society of Friends is a charitable, non-religious organisation that oversees the care and preservation of the cathedral for posterity. It encourages both Glasgow residents and visitors to experience the unique architectural and historical legacy of the city's oldest building, as well as supporting artistic activity in and around the cathedral.

The **public email address** for GCF is info@gcfestival.com. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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Glasgow Cathedral Festival is grateful to our sponsors and supporters, including The National Lottery through Creative Scotland, the People's Postcode Trust, the Russell Lang Trust, the Bellahouston Bequest Foundation, the Hugh Fraser Foundation, and many generous individual donors.

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland distributing funding provided by the Scottish Government and The National Lottery. Further information at creativescotland.com. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Learn more about the value of art and creativity in Scotland and join in at www.ourcreativevoice.scot

